

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system to support trading of intellectual property (IP), comprising:

a processor;

a user interface displayed by the processor to accept a request to trade an IP asset;

a user interface displayed by the processor to store information on the IP asset including rating information; ~~and~~

a database coupled to the user interface and to the processor to store data. associated with one or more IP assets, the database supporting the trading of the IP asset; and

a portal allowing a user to draft a patent application and to check for conformance with patent examining rules, wherein the portal includes an expert system that guides the user through each step of preparing the patent application, and when a communication from a patent office is received, the expert system guides the user to respond to the communication.

2-15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising an online platform for selling and buying patentable ideas or pending patent applications.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein parties can list and search for applications that are within a predetermined period from abandonment.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet and wherein clients access the system using a browser.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, further comprising a patent information management (PIM) system to display information for a user to manage the user's IP and to communicate with other users relating to the IP.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides information on pending activities relating to an IP asset and wherein the user drills down to get additional information on the IP asset.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM permits sellers to list assets for sale, buyers to bid on assets of interest and users to browse through listed items in a fully-automated, topically-arranged, intuitive and easy-to-use online service.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides real time and interactive auctions that allows bidders place bids in real time and compete with other bidders using the Internet.
23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the PIM allows customer bids to be automatically increased up to a maximum amount so bids can be raised and auctions won even when bidders are away from their computers.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides the user with access to a social network.
25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides the user with access to a network of IP lawyers for assistance in finalizing the applications, specialists for trading IP, venture capitalists and financiers.
26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM displays advertisements for a predetermined period of time.
27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM allows an inventor to file a patent application with a patent office.
28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM allows an inventor to file a patent application.
29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM automatically updates the user on any new IP in the user's areas of interest.
30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides an appraisal of the IP.
31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides escrow to facilitate an IP transaction.
32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM provides a virtual showroom which displays the IPs offered for sale and enables a

potential purchaser or customer to view the IP asset, view rating information regarding the IP asset or place a bid to purchase the IP asset.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM accesses one or more search engines that continuously search the web and identify information that is of interest to the user.
34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the PIM supports user-generated IP content.